

### **REMARKS**

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on November 14, 2006. Applicants render their election herewith and respectfully request consideration and examination of the pending claims.

Both restriction and election of species have been required. Applicants hereby elect Invention I, drawn to claims 1-16, without traverse. Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that these claims are drawn to lead assemblies, when in fact several claims are drawn to electrical stimulation devices having lead assemblies, while others are drawn to just lead assemblies. It is believed that, in the present context, the election remains proper. In association with the invention election, Applicants have cancelled method claims 17-20 without prejudice.

Applicants also elect Species III, drawn to the electrode assembly embodiment shown in Figures 41(a)-41(c) and 42(a)-42(b). The species election corresponds to claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14. The pending claims not corresponding to this species are indicated as withdrawn. If any claim that is generic over the non-elected claims is allowed, consideration and allowance of the withdrawn claims is also requested.

Applicants have also added newly presented claims 21-22, which further define the scope of the present claims. Specifically, each of the newly presented claims includes a recitation that the front side of the electrode assembly is configured for sliding implantation over a patient's ribcage. It is believed that each of these newly presented claims is appropriate for consideration with the above election.

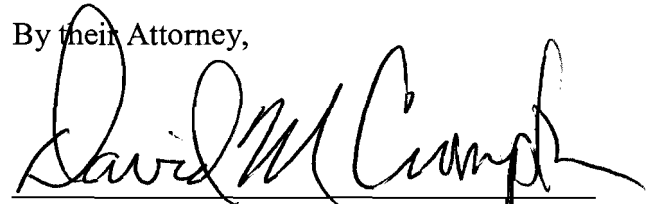
Examination of the above-identified claims is respectfully requested. If a phone conference is believed necessary to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the above discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Gust H. Bardy et al.

By their Attorney,

Dated: 12/14/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Crompton", written over a horizontal line.

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